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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 568
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain bridge on State Route 273
in Giles County as the "Sterling Edgar Stovall
Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should
pay lasting tribute to those exemplary citizens who during their lifetimes contributed
immeasurably to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Edgar Stovall served his fellow citizens with the utmost diligence,
probity and professionalism as a magistrate from the 23rd Civil District on the Giles County
Court for 44 remarkably productive years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stovall was a colorful orator and keen student of public affairs who was
renowned for his predilection for being on the right and moral side of any given issue; and

WHEREAS, he was a gentleman noted for promoting progress in Giles County, and his
persuasive oratory, with his walking cane swinging in the air, was instrumental in the passage of
many initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in election years, Mr. Stovall was a familiar sight along the gravel roads of
the 23rd Civil District, campaigning for another term; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 82, he received widespread publicity for the re-election
strategy he had utilized for most of his distinguished career: he campaigned riding his mule
Hoolah with his coon dog Ole Bluestreak trailing along; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Stovall was a native of Giles County and a long time resident of the Bryson community where he farmed for many years; and

WHEREAS, truly the epitome of the consummate public servant, Mr. Stovall had also served with acumen and alacrity as a member of the Giles County Board of Education and the Giles County Agriculture Committee and as a director of the Giles County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, he brought great honor and distinction to Giles County and his exceptional political career as a two-term member of this General Assembly from 1917-1921; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stovall was a member of the House of Representatives during the General Assembly that was ultimately responsible for the ratification of the women's suffrage amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as Tennessee became the 36th and deciding state to ratify the 19th Amendment, Mr. Stovall cast one of the 50 affirmative votes that assured its passage in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout Christian faith, he served astutely as a lay leader in Bee Spring Memorial Methodist Church and served as Superintendent of its Sunday School for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, until illness forced him to resign from the County Court, Mr. Stovall labored with diligence and purpose in the time-honored spirit of public service, where long, hard hours are performed, not for personal acclaim or profit, but rather for the satisfaction of a job well done; and

WHEREAS, he passed from this life to a far better existence in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stovall truly found his greatest happiness and satisfaction in life in serving others, and this notable civic leader and peerless public servant should be permanently honored for his numerous contributions to the health and welfare of his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the bridge spanning the Indian Creek on State Route 273 (Bryson Road) near Elkton, Giles County is hereby designated the "Sterling Edgar Stovall Memorial Bridge" in commemoration of this distinguished gentleman's bountiful life and his indelible legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Sterling Edgar Stovall Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the creation of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.